



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2023
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Zoom Teleconference
Agenda

Participants: Delegate Tom Hutchinson, Susan O'Neill, Bill Valentine, John Hartline, Alice Settle-Raskin, Matt Teffeau, Don Mulrine, Dan Rider, Joe Hinson, Janice Palmer, Amy Keller, Darrin Youker, Monique Snyder, Darren Jarboe, Diana-Lynne Hsu, Grayson Middleton, Josh Bollinger, Susan Harrison, Kelly Dudeck, Susanne Richards, Senator Mike McKay, Charlotte Davis, Megan D'Arcy.

Legislative Committee Co-chair welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 2:02pm. Co-chair Thompson asked the Committee members to review the minutes from the February 3, 2023 meeting. **Don Mulrine made the motion to accept the minutes, Dan Riders seconded the motion. The February 3, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Darren Jarboe abstained.**

The Committee reviewed the bill tracking list and the following bills were discussed:

- HB695-Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund – Revisions and Sunset Repeal (Rural Communities Improvement Act of 2023) Hearing 2/24-ENT. Charlotte Davis reviewed the technical changes to the RMPIF Statute. **Committee Recommendation: Support**
- SB470/HB631- Natural Resources - Land Conservation - Establishment of Goals and Programs (Maryland the Beautiful Act). Hearing 3/1. Committee Recommendation: **Monitor and follow-up with Emily Wilson at DNR** as there is a concern that funding will be taken from existing programs.
- SB498/HB497Rural Health Collaborative Pilot Repeal and Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition Funding. Review 15.00. Hearing 2/23 Finance. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- SB526/HB511 Natural Resources - Forest Preservation and Retention, Hearing 3/2 Education, Energy, and the Environment. Committee member Joe Hinson with the Maryland Forests Association, Inc. (MFA) stated that the bill makes modifications to the forest conservation act. MFA suggested an amendment that would exclude commercial logging or forest management activities when there is no intent to convert the land to another use. **Committee Recommendation: Support with amendment to exclude commercial logging when there is no intention to convert the land to another use.**
- SB590/HB718-Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023), Hearing 2/28 EEE. The Committee discussed that this bill removes biomass from the RPS which negates current progress of forestry and poultry industry. The Committee has opposed this bill in the past. **Committee Recommendation – Matt Teffeau made the motion to oppose SB590/HB718,**

John Hartline seconded. The motion to oppose SB590/HB718 was unanimously approved.

- SB613/HB908 Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program. Making a program permanently that is currently existing, Hearing 2/28 EEE. **Committee Recommendation: Revisit in two weeks, 2/27 meeting.**
- SB640 Sales and Use Tax - Electricity for Agricultural Purposes – Exemption Hearing 3/01 B&T. helping become farming viable and alleviate expenses. **Committee Recommendation: Support**
- SB690 Agriculture - Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production – Prohibitions. Hearing 3/02 EEE. The Committee discussed the challenges with this bill that included economic hardship for the farmer to make such a conversion, in addition to overall support of the poultry industry in Maryland. **Committee Recommendation – Susan Harrison moved the motion to oppose SB690, Don Mulrine seconded it. The motion to oppose SB690 was unanimously approved.**
- SB776 HB1170 -Graywater Systems - Public and Private Buildings - AuthorizationHearing 2/23 EEE. **Committee Recommendation - Monitor.**
- SB830 Environmental Health Specialists and On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Reform (Environmental Health Systems Support Act of 2023), Hearing 2/23 EEE. **Committee Recommendation – Monitor**
- SB836/HB950 - Maryland Native Plants Program Hearing 3/02 EEE. **Committee Recommendation – Monitor. Reach out to MNLGA.**
- HB497/SB498-Rural Health Collaborative Pilot Repeal and Mid Shore Health Improvement Coalition Funding, Hearing 2/21 Health and Government Operations. **Committee Recommendation - Monitor.**
- HB530 Natural Resources – Forest Mitigation Banks and the Forest Conservation Fund – Alterations. Giving people more of an option **Committee Recommendation: Monitor until we get more details.**
- HB548/SB550-Financial Regulation - Maryland Community Investment Venture Fund - Establishment (Access to Banking Act), Hearing 2/22 Economic Matters. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor**
- HB1099 -Electricity - Solar Energy Generating Stations - Fire SuppressionHearing 2/23 ECM. **Committee Recommendation: Support.**
- HB652/SB867Vehicle Laws – Special and Commemorative Registration Plate – Maryland Heroes. Hearing 2/23, **Committee Recommendation – Monitor.**
- HB653 Economic Development - Maryland Technology Infrastructure Pilot Program - EstablishmentHearing 2/23, Ways and Means. **Committee Recommendation: Monitor.**
- HB654 SB297 -Community Colleges – Capital Projects – State Share Adjustment. Committee Recommendation, Hearing 2/28 APP – **Committee Recommendation: Monitor.**
- HB678 -Sales and Use Tax - Electricity for Agricultural Purposes, Hearing 2/23 W&M, **Committee Recommendation – Revisit on February 27, 2023 meeting.**
- HB712 - Consumer Protection - Right to Repair - Farm Equipment Hearing 2/22 ECM. **Community Recommendation – Support**

- HB908/SB613-Electricity – Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program
Hearing 2/23 ECM, **Committee Recommendation – Revisit on 2/27 meeting.**

Charlotte David informed the Committee that the Maryland Day event on March 24, 2023 was approved to be held on Lawyer's Mall. She invited all the members and thanked the following sponsors – MARBIDCO, Horizon Farm Credit, SMADC, Maryland Broadband Cooperative.

Don Mulrine moved to adjourn the meeting, John Hartline seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:03pm